

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated October 3, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 7 to 9, 26 and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8 and 9, all which have been amended, are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7 to 9, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,566,252 (Miyaza) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,586,242 (McQueen). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Turning to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus comprises a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original; a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by said reading unit and to output a character code as a result of recognition; a storing unit constructed to store a character font; a readout unit constructed to read the character font from said storing unit based on the character code output by said character recognizing unit; a detecting unit constructed to detect first character size concerning the character in the image read by said reading unit; a setting unit constructed to set a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator; a determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the magnification ratio; a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in said storing unit based on an instruction by the operator; and a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font, the type of which is selected by said selecting unit, wherein said generating unit generates the reproduced image by combining the characters having the second character

size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps in order that the width of the reproduced image coincides with the width of the image read by said reading unit which is multiplied by the magnification ratio.

Claims 8 and 9 are directed to a method and a recording medium readable by a computer, respectively, substantially in accordance with Claim 1.

Applicant submits that the image processing apparatus (method) according to the present invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 is characterized in that, in case of generating a reproduced image, a generating unit (step) actively combines characters having a second character size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps in order that the width of the reproduced image coincides with the width of the image read by a reading unit (step) which is multiplied by a magnification ratio.

In contrast, Miyaza, discloses "On the other hand, as illustrated in FIG. 93(c), when the line width and density of the magnified character 62 are out of the predetermined range, if a copy is produced at the magnification rate specified in step 32, the magnified character 62 becomes unreadable. Therefore, the line width of the magnified character 62 is corrected to be in the predetermined range by making a thinner portion thicker and a thicker portion thinner so as to obtain a corrected character 64 (step 43). Then, the above-mentioned copying operation is performed (steps 41 and 42) and the magnification mode comes to an end." (See Miyaza, column 71, line 25 to column 73, line 38) . That is, in Miyaza, in case of performing a copy operation as changing magnification, the line width of a magnified character is corrected according to need so as to make the relevant character easily readable. As a result, in Miyaza, when generating a reproduced image, there is a possibility that an image that plural same-sized characters and plural kinds

of character gaps are combined is sometimes generated. However, even in such a case, Miyaza does not specifically consider coincidence of the width of the reproduced image and the width of the magnification-changed original image.

However, the present invention actively combines, when generating the reproduced image, the characters having the second character size with the plural kinds of character gaps. This is apparent from the description "in order that the width of the reproduced image coincides with the width of the image read by said reading unit which is multiplied by the magnification ratio" in the claims and the disclosures at paragraphs [0029] and [0038] in the specification.

As a result, Applicant submits that the generating unit (step) in the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Miyaza. Applicant has reviewed McQueen and submits that nothing is found in McQueen that cures this deficiency in Miyaza. Accordingly, Applicant also submits that the present invention as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Miyaza, McQueen nor any possible combination thereof.

In light of the deficiencies of Miyaza and McQueen as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 9 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.